

The Topeka State Journal.

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 6, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

DEADLY BLUNDER.

French Troops Attack a British Force by Moonlight.

In the Jungles Near the Sierra Leone Border.

LIEUT. MORITZ SLAIN.

Before He Dies He Says It Was a Mistake.

The British Troops Mistaken for the Savage Enemy.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—Particulars concerning a battle between French and British troops on the frontiers of Sierra Leone, on the northwest coast of Africa, are coming slowly, and every hour seems to give a graver aspect to the affair. The situation will require careful handling in order to avoid serious complications.

Particulars of the engagement received today, say that the British force, said to number about 300 native troops, sent against the Soas, were encamped near Warina, in the sphere of British influence, shortly before daylight on December 23.

This force was attacked by thirty Senegalese sharpshooters, supported by 200 native French auxiliaries under Lieutenant Moritz, of the French regular army.

The French opened fire upon the British, who repulsed, and after three fighting had continued for some time, the French army retired and Lieutenant Moritz, who had been wounded, was captured by the British and brought into camp.

Upon being questioned as to his reason for attacking upon the British troops, the lieutenant explained that he mistook the British force for a force of Soas under French officers and Arab leaders.

Lieutenant Moritz, in spite of the assistance promptly rendered to him, died of his wounds.

In addition ten of the Senegalese sharpshooters were killed, and of the frontier police which accompanied the expedition, in addition to Inspector General Léon, two were killed and three were seriously wounded. The British force, it is said, remains at Warina.

The governor of Sierra Leone cabled to the Marquis d'Argen, secretary of state for the colonies, today, confirming the Associated Press dispatch in all points, and adding that the French pretend that they thought that the British were enemies. It appears certain that the scene of the encounter was well on the British side of the border.

The colonial office this afternoon announces that the article will be made the subject of a stringent inquiry, so soon as full details of the affair are received from the governor of Sierra Leone.

Later news received from Sierra Leone says that the encounter took place during a period of bright moonlight, and that when the French surprised the British forces, the latter were unprepared for the engagement and could not easily have been mistaken for Soas.

The later dispatches also say that the French officer, in command, who was mortally wounded, prior to his death in the British camp, was able to explain his blunder. He said that in the moonlight he mistook the white campaigning costume of the British officers for the white dress of Arab chiefs, whom he supposed to be in command of a force of Soas.

It is now said that this statement of the French officer makes it perfectly clear that a mistake was made by the French, and that no responsibility attaches to the British officers.

It is not explained, however, what the French officer was doing in a locality which was well within the British border, and it is this point which is liable to lead to serious complications when coupled with the shooting of the British officers and soldiers.

The leading English newspapers are all inclined to suspend judgment over the affair until full details of the engagement are received from the governor of Sierra Leone and of an explanation furnished by the French authorities as to the presence within the British border of such a large force of French troops.

The Daily News, which may be supposed to accurately reflect the views of the government on the subject, says the incident will form the basis of a strict inquiry upon the part of both governments, adding: "Were the two nations involved less strong and less sure of themselves, it might result in immeasurable evil." Pending receipt of the details, no one in this country can fail to realize the tremendous responsibility which attends every reference upon the subject.

The Pall Mall Gazette remarks: "The French were undoubtedly in our territory, and it is difficult to understand how even black troops clothed in the conspicuous uniform of the queen could be mistaken for Soas. Happily, there is no reason to fear serious difficulty with France."

FRANCE CONCILIATORY.

A Cabinet Meeting Held to Discuss the Sierra Leone Affair.

PARIS, Jan. 6.—A cabinet council called this morning, in order to consider the encounter between the French and British troops on the borders of Sierra Leone, President Carnot presiding, the affair was discussed in all its aspects, so far as possible with the few facts received in official circles.

Finally it was decided, according to reports circulated after the meeting of the ministers, that if the English version of the affair turns out to be correct, the French government will not contest the necessity of making the reparations provided by international law.

It is believed that this conciliatory view of the matter will avoid any serious consequences of the affair.

Bishop Vincent will deliver one of his masterly lectures at the Methodist church on Tuesday evening, January 23. Subject will be announced later.

REVOLUTION SPREADING.

The Whole Northern Part of Brazil in Sympathy With Insurgents.

(Copyrighted by the Associated Press.)

ST. VINCENT, W. I., Jan. 6.—A dispatch from the Associated Press, correspondent at Paramaribo, dated December 27, brings the latest news as to the state of affairs, not only at Paramaribo, but in the northern portion of Brazil.

The Associated Press correspondent forwards the information that all denials to the contrary, the revolutionary movement is undeniably spreading from the south through the north and the insurgents are finding friends in the northern provinces, who are conspiring against the government of President Peláez, and who are assisting the revolutionary movement in every way possible.

The Netherway and America are still delayed there. The real cause of dissatisfaction among the crew, especially those who reshipped for higher wages, is the fact that they are unable to obtain the money which they claim is due them.

MELLO WOUNDED.

He is Also Suffering From a Disease Called Herpetic.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The Herald's special dispatch from Montevideo says:

A correspondent in Rio sends word that news has been received confirming the report received that Admiral de Mello was wounded on the Aquidabán. It has also been learned he is suffering from herpetic.

BUILDING THE ARENA.

Preparations for the Corbett-Mitchell Fight Going Forward.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 6.—The training of both Corbett and Mitchell is going on as usual. Visitors at the quarters are increasing in numbers and sporting men are beginning to arrive in town. "Batch" Thompson of New York, and Fred Taral, the jockey, being prominent among them.

A party of newspaper men were driven to the fair grounds today where the arena is being built. The structure is in fair way toward completion and may easily be reached from the business portion of the city.

Gov. Mitchell has addressed a message to the Methodist conference at Palatka, thanking them for their support of him in his stand against the battle.

It is said that he shall continue in his present position.

THE UNION TERMINAL CASE

Another Point Decided and Another Step Taken in This Famous Case.

The supreme court decided another point in the long drawn out controversy between the Union Terminal Railroad Company of Kansas City, Kas., and the Union Pacific, Missouri Pacific and Rock Island railroads.

The Union Terminal company was several months ago, by the old board of railroad commissioners, granted the privilege of crossing the tracks of the other roads at Kansas City. A rehearing of the case was asked before the new board of commissioners, and an application was made in the district court of this county to enjoin the rehearing of the case.

The injunction was denied and the supreme court now affirms the decision of the lower court on the ground that the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific should have been enjoined instead of the railroad commissioners.

After the decision in this case was announced, a petition was filed asking a re-hearing of the case decided. In the mean time the Union Terminal company don't know what it is to be allowed to do.

WILL NOT AID FRAUD.

The Supreme Court Reverses the Sheldon-Traurung Foreclosure Case.

The supreme court today decided the case of J. S. Sheldon vs. Simon Prusman, which is of interest to all holders and makers of mortgages.

J. L. Sheldon, a young tinner, owned 40 acres of land in a village of England Park upon which he gave a mortgage to Simon Prusman. The mortgage was sold by Prusman to his father, who lived out of the state. By selling the mortgage to a person residing outside of the state Prusman avoided paying taxes on the mortgage.

Prusman brought suit to foreclose the mortgage and Sheldon bought the foreclosed on the grounds of fraud on that part of Prusman in transferring the mortgage to his father. The Shawnee county circuit court decided the case for Prusman, and Sheldon appealed the case to the supreme court where the argument in the case was made by Mrs. Sheldon. The decision of the supreme court reverses the decision of the lower court and is that where it is shown that fraud has been committed, the aid of the courts can not be invoked to collect a debt. The case may be brought up again on another showing.

SALARIED OFFICERS

Must Turn Over All Fees Received by Them to the County Treasurer.

A case was rendered in the supreme court today concerning the fees and salaries of county officers by which it is required that county clerks shall turn over to the county fund all fees received by them for official services, and that the same should be deducted from each quarterly allowance of salary.

A dispatch from Vienna says the iron masters of Austria and Hungary have agreed to renew the iron ring for another three years.

The winter session of the American school of archaeology was opened at Athens yesterday. Dr. Waldstein presented a report of the discovery of Argos.

A favorable report has been ordered made from the house committee on commerce on the bill to extend the service of the members of the life saving corps on the Atlantic coast.

The suit commenced November 1, by C. A. Spreckels, charging his father, Adolph Spreckels, and his two brothers, with attempting to defraud him out of his interests in the Hawaiian Commercial company, was dismissed at San Francisco today.

The case decided was Graham county,

where the board of county commissioners brought suit to recover fees from B. Van Slyke, the ex-county clerk.

He Made \$84,000.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—On December 30th a daring forgery was perpetrated on the Bank of Caracas, Venezuela, in which a family of four persons was implicated. The name of a prominent depositor of the bank was forged to a check for \$84,000. The cash was paid out and the forgers have not yet been arrested.

It is believed that this conciliatory view of the matter will avoid any serious consequences of the affair.

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A STATE SECRET.

Gresham Won't Tell the News the Corwin Brought.

The Only Secret He Has Had From Newspaper Men.

HE'S PROUD OF IT.

Means to Hold On to It as Long as Possible.

Resolution in the House Asking for the News.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Great reticence is shown in government circles concerning the advice from Honolulu received by the Corwin.

The emphatic incredulity expressed by the state department yesterday has changed by the receipt of a cipher dispatch which came by the Corwin, as it fully confirmed the news received by the Associated Press.

It seems that the queen has reconsidered her objections to accede to the conditions exacted and that Minister Willis has proceeded on the line of his original instructions, notifying the provisional government that they are expected to return in order to allow the restoration of the queen.

Nothing can be learned as to the extent of the disturbance caused by this action, but that there is a condition of tension and great excitement in Honolulu is certain.

It became generally known that the Associated Press and Amherstable was correct, though some members were reluctant to admit and still expressed some doubt.

Mr. Hilt, of Illinois, was evidently one of those who did not doubt the authenticity of the Amherst cable. "They will give out nothing of the state department," he said. "What we want to know is what has been done, what is the result of the demands by Minister Willis on the provisional government."

On the basis of a special cable from Auckland, N. Z., Hilt introduced the following this morning:

"Resigned. That the president be requested to communicate to the house of representatives, if not inconsistent with the public interests, all information received since his arrival Dec. 28, 1893, or not transmitted therewith and now in his possession, touching recent reported events in the Hawaian Islands; any attempts to overturn the Republican government there, and erect a monarch in its stead, and especially whether any representative officer, vessel, or armed forces of the United States took part in such attempts to unseat a friendly government, and if so, by whose orders."

Complaint was also made against him by a young woman for persisting in pressing her attention against her while she was afraid that he would do her harm if she refused to marry him.

He is a son of a farmer who lives about ten miles from this city. When released from jail here he went direct to Chicago.

THAMES FROZEN OVER.

The Coldest Weather of the Winter in England.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—There has been a heavy snow storm in Ireland and Scotland and traffic of all kinds is delayed.

A heavy gale prevails on the east coast of England. The Thames is frozen over.

Three persons were drowned today in a sailing accident at Bristol.

In the south of England and France there is an indication of change to milder weather. In the north of Germany the weather is still severe, being twenty degrees below freezing.

BIG PENSION FRAUD.

Pension Agent in New York Has Gotten \$150,000 Illegally.

BUFFALO, Jan. 6.—W. Bowman, the most extensive pension agent in Western New York, was with his son Allan and wife, arrested this afternoon by United States officers, on charges of defrauding the government and extorting money from pensioners.

The whole amount involved is said to be \$150,000. The pension department has been investigating his methods for three months. The evidence is highly sensational.

A new type of gun-boat similar to the Torch and Alert will be introduced by the admiralty, and it is probable that four of them will be built at a cost of 600,000 pounds each. They will be designed as station gun-boats. The new navy estimates will also provide that the work on the construction of the cruisers Powerful and Terrible, shall be proceeded with at once.

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The admiralty has now ordered the fitting up of the requirements of the 25 per cent.

BLOW-UP AT WEIR CITY.

A Powder House Goes to Pieces—James Turner Fatally Hurt.

WEIR CITY, Kan., Jan. 6.—The Central Coal & Coke company's powder house at shaft No. 5 has blown up and the powder man, James Turner, fatally injured.

The house had twenty kegs of powder in it. Turner was filling cans for someone's work, and in opening a keg with a chisel, caused a spark to start the explosion. Turner was horribly mutilated.

AFTER GAME BIRDS.

Pennsylvania Sends to Kansas for Quail to Restock that State.

LANCASTER, Pa., Jan. 6.—The secretary of the Lancaster County Game Protective Association today sent an order to Wichita, Kas., for 107 dozen of quail, which will be used in restocking this county, which was almost depleted of this kind of game by the severe weather of last winter.

The birds will be received here the first of this month and cared for until spring, when they will be distributed over the county. Before the first consignment is received the association will give another order for a large number of birds.

TODAY'S TELEGRAPH TIPS.

At Perigian, France, three anarchists have been sentenced to short terms of imprisonment for sedition language.

A dispatch from Vienna says the iron masters of Austria and Hungary have agreed to renew the iron ring for another three years.

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